

A1 Drivers BCV8 Championship
RACE REPORT ROUND 13.
AMOC Race Meeting
DONINGTON 8TH October 2006.

Once again, James Wheeler provides the following race report for Donington after leaving his Fiesta Race car at Silverstone ready for his own race there the next day to travel specially to support BCV8 at Donington. Many thanks to James for taking time out from his own race weekend.

Qualifying

I arrived at a dry Donington Park circuit having left my Fiesta at Silverstone that morning, because I was racing in the Fiesta championship the next day. (That's dedication to the BCV8 championship for you!!). Anyway back to the BCV8, which was a rather short grid of cars, missing some of the well known competitors, but never the less qualifying and the race were still set to be as fraught as ever!!

As the cars went out to set qualifying laps, Adrian Beer was the first driver I noticed who was certainly keen to get a pole position for the last race of the 2006 season. He set fastest lap and was two seconds quicker than John Wilson. Joe Parrington once again looked dominant in class C. Tom Jones got pole in Class B with Ian Prior behind him in second who had his head gasket go on lap 5. Paul White set fastest lap in Class AB and Ken Deamer got pole in Class A. Ken had some troubles in qualifying as he went off just before the old hairpin and collected Martin Hall, Martin made a quick recovery but Ken had to watch the last two laps of qualifying in the gravel.

Ian Prior worked wonders between practice and race start to ensure he made the grid, a task which proved well worth while by the end of the day unless you were Brian Cakebread!!.

Race

As the cars lined up on the grid you could almost feel John Wilson's determination not to let Adrian run away with this last race of the season. Class A also looked set for a great race with the 2nd largest grid in the field. Tom Jones had a great opportunity to get his second Class B win of the season but Ian Prior and Brian Cakebread also looked very competitive.

As the lights went out the whole field charged towards the first corner John and Adrian locked together in battle, Joe Parrington leading class C, Tom Jones getting sandwiched by Ian Prior and Brian Cakebread. The champion Rob Muir made a fantastic start and led Class A round the first lap.

Class A

The champion Rob Muir made a fantastic start to lead A class round the first lap, Ken Deamer was close in second, and Robert Croft was not far behind in his MGB GT. Rob Muir was pushing hard to stay in front and managed to hold off Ken Deamer for the first half of the race, but Ken was on a mission and with a car no where near as tired as the championship winning car of Rob Muir's he overtook Rob to win Class A, setting a new lap record in the process! (I can't believe it, he stole that off me!!!) Robert Croft drove well in his first BCV8 race even though he had a massive spin at the old hairpin, a complete 360 from which he managed to make a very quick recovery. Brian Smethurst finished 4th.

Class AB

Paul White once again dominated class AB he led from start to finished looking smooth and consistent. Dawn-Marie Cox finished in 2nd having had a battle with the Class A cars of Rob Muir and Ken Deamer.

Class B

Ian Prior managed to change his head gasket before the race to start second in class. As the lights went out Tom Jones got sandwiched between Ian Prior and Brian Cakebread, Ian went side ways allowing Brian to sneak into 2nd. As the race went on Tom Jones managed to pull away and take the Class B win.

The race to watch was just behind though for second place between Ian Prior and Brian Cakebread. Ian caught back up with Brian as they both came side by side into Redgate several times. Ian Prior was in front one lap and then Brian Cakebread the next. I counted six changes of position in the race and that was just in front of me. On the last lap they both came into my view side by side, Ian Prior on the inside Brian on the outside, Brian braked just a fraction too late and had a spectacular spin onto the infield, allowing Ian Prior 2nd in B class, (superb battle to watch!!!) Brian recovered to finish 3rd, Mike Breedon finished 4th (personal best time for Mike, well done!) Paul Atkinson finished in 5th.

Class C

Joe Parrington led from lights to flag and was over a second quicker than his next competitor Piers Townsend. Piers finished 2nd in class and 3rd overall, Martin Hall kept Piers under pressure in the early part of the race, Martin Hall finished 3rd in class and fourth overall.

Class D

Class D looked set to be a fraught battle from lights to flag as the two cars of Adrian Beer and John Wilson left their grid positions, they were both locked in battle for two laps, until unfortunately Adrian went off into the gravel on lap 3 to finish his race and hand John Wilson the overall win on a plate!

James Wheeler